has since been received. As the processing of the report involves consultation with other departments, no final decision has been taken on the recommendations by the Government.

FCI Godowns in North-Eastern Region

1260. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) number of FCI godowns in the States of the North-Eastern region specially in Manipur;

(b) whether Government have any plan to build FCI godowns in each district; and

(c) number of godowns to be constructed in this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) As on 31.5.97, the Food Corporation of India has 70 godowns in seven North-Eastern States, which include three godowns in Manipur.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) During 1997-98, the Food Corporation of India propose to construct godowns at Dimapur (Nagaland), Jowai (Meghalaya) and Jiribam (Manipur) with a total capacity of 16,250 MT subject to availability of funds.

Quantity of Wheat, Flour and Rice Supplies to North-Eastern States

1261. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of raw wheat, flour and rice supplied by Government to the North-Eastern States; State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the wheat supplied by Government is not being made available in the respective States;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and if not, whether each State of this region has its own flour milling for grinding the wheat; and

(d) if not, where it will be grinded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No flour is supplied to States/UTs including those in the North-East from Central Pool by FCI for PDS. The quantities of wheat and rice allotted and lifted in case of States in North-East during 1996-97 and 1997-98 are given in statement attached. [*See* Appendix 181 Annexure No. 31]

(b) to (d) The quantity of wheat required for supply to States/UTs for PDS in North-East States is moved from Northern States of India or from outside. There have been occasions when due to movement bottlenecks, labour trouble etc., there was temporary dislocation in supplies.

All States in North-East, except Arunachal Pradesh, have roller flour mills besides chakkies. Arunachal Pradesh can get its wheat grinded in Assasm.

Identification of Households Under TPDS in Gujarat

1262. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the households living below the poverty line who are to be covered under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) have been identified in the State of Gujarat to issue foodgrains at specially subsidised prices:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether TPDS has since been launched in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, by when it is to be launched in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of Gujarat have reported that they have been running a subsidised scheme of distribution of wheat at Rs. 2 per Kg. to all families below poverty line since May, 1995 knows as Food For Poor (FFP). State Government has dovetailed the new PDS with their FFP Scheme and has continued to provide wheat at Rs. 2 per Kg. to BPL population under Targeted PDS. Rice will be available to all card holders at normal PDS rates. Under the TPDS ten Kg. of foodgrains per family per month are provided. Government of Gujarat is distributing to BPL families @ 2.5 Kg per person subject to a ceiling of 12.5 kg per family per month. State Government has identified 36% of the population to be covered under the scheme as against 24.21% below poverty line population as per the Expert Group. Additional expenditure will be borne by the State Govt. itself. The State Government has issued white ration cards to all BPL beneficiaries.

(c) The TPDS has started in Gujarat State w.e.f. 1.6.97.

(d) State, District, Taluk and Village level Vigilance Committees have been set up and are functioning. Government of Gujarat have issued orders for granting "Right of Information" to all card holders. All Sarpanchs of concerned villages are informed about the issues made to their fair price shop owners through Post Card.

(e) Does not arise.

FCI's Preference for Hired Storage Capacity

1263. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Food Corporation of India (FCI) continues to prefer hired storage capacity instead of using its own storage which remain under-utilised;

(b) if so, whether Government's attention has been drawn to newsitem captioning 'FCI underutilise capacity' appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 11th July, 1997; and

(c) if so, the details and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Food Corporation of India uses storage capacity by taking on hire from other agencies namely; Central Warehosuing Corporation, State Warehosuing Corporation, State Governments and other private agencies. Hiring and de-hiring of storage capacity is a continuous process based on requirement. During procurement season the CAP storage is hired for short duration and de-hired when no longer required. As fluctuations in procurement or off-take cannot be estimated accurately, sometimes storage capacity remains under utilised.